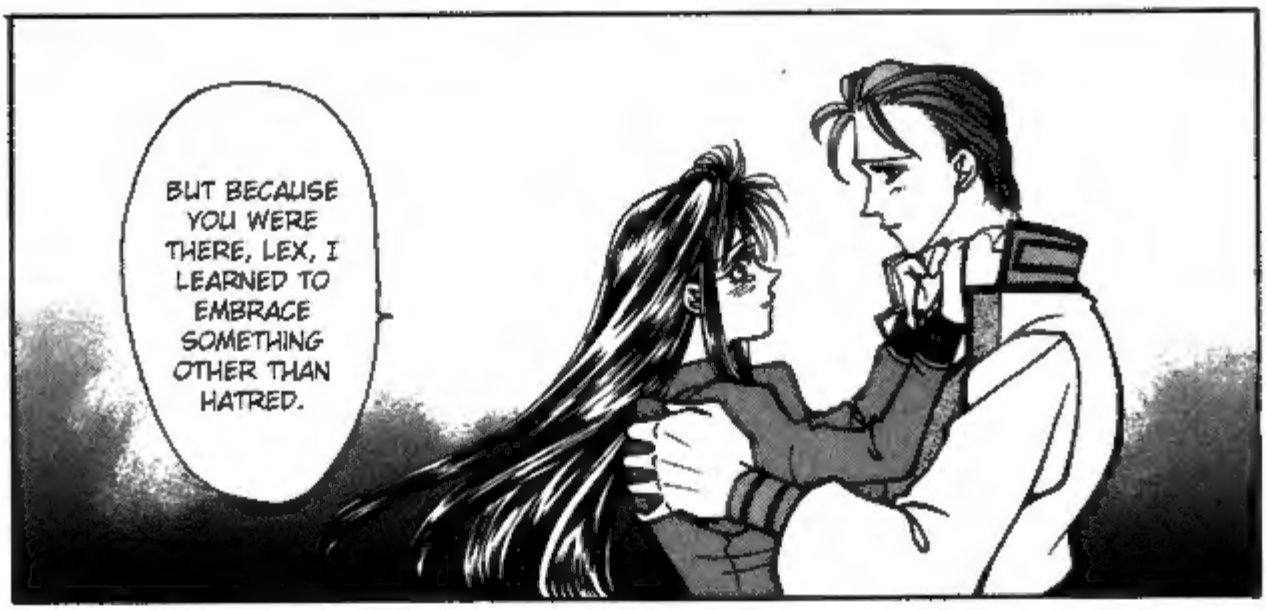
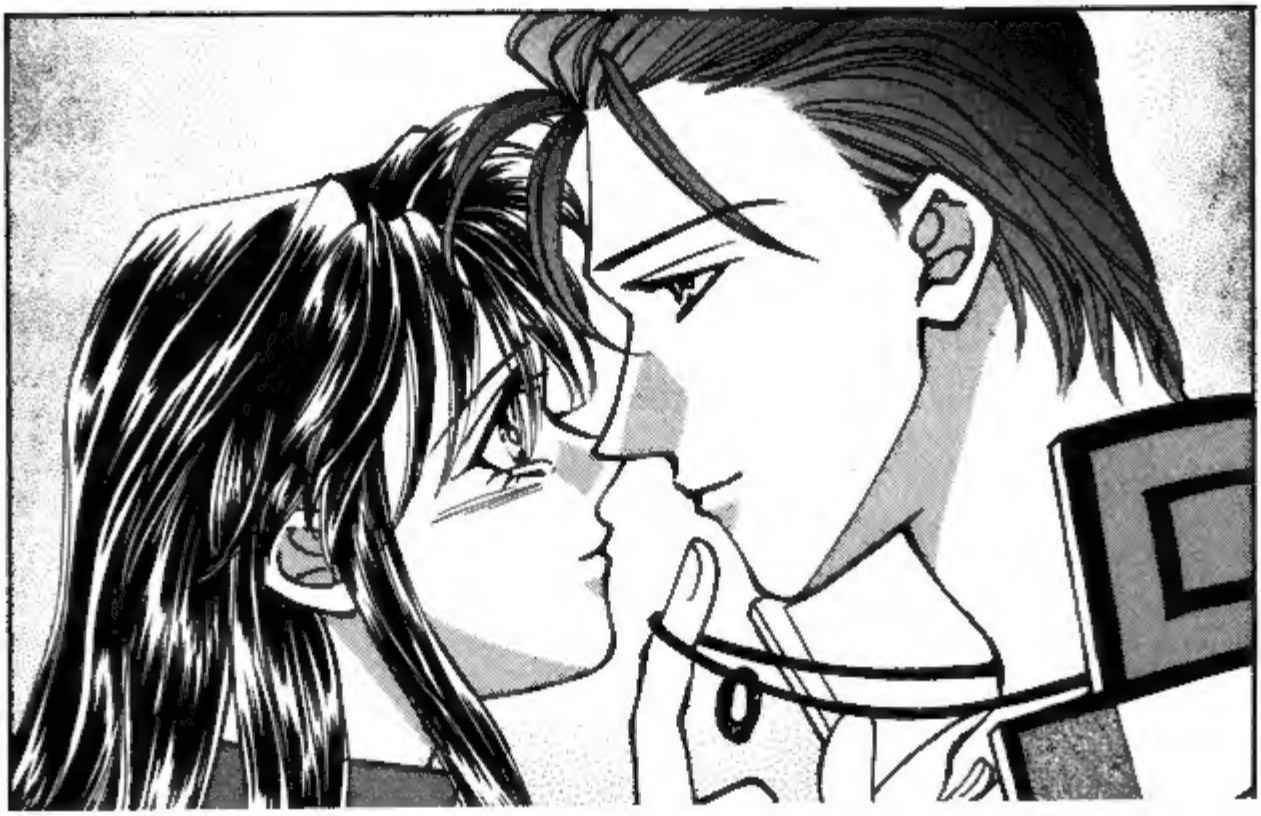
...AH!!
IT DOESN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO FITTING ON MY PINKY!
...HEY ...
...THIS RING...
IS TAILORED TO FIT YOUR FINGER, ISN'T IT?
It's only a one way flit.
...GEEZ ...
COME ON, SPILL IT.
WHY WERE YOU UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I THREW IT AWAY AND JUST RAN OFF LIKE THAT?
...IT'S TOO EMBAR-RASSING TO SAY!!
... BUT...!

...I FINALLY SAID IT...
I'M SORRY ...
...I FOR-GIVE YOU.
AFTER ALL, IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I...
...LOVE...YOU...
...YOU KNOW ...

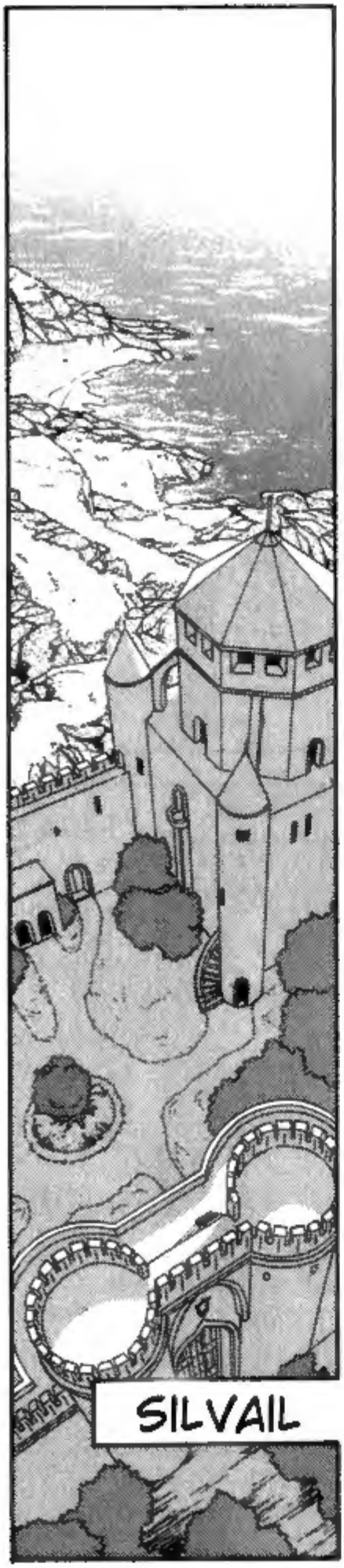
I WOULD STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY I HAD FELT WHEN I LEFT MY BROTHER AND ALL OF ISAAC BEHIND.
I WOULD STILL BEAR ILL WILL TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF GRANDBELL...
THAT TIME WE FIRST MET...! ALWAYS THINK...
WHAT IF I HAD KILLED YOU THERE...? EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT IT, I BECOME SO FRIGHTENED.


BUT BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE, LEX, I LEARNED TO EMBRACE SOMETHING OTHER THAN HATRED.



I LOVE YOU...
むすっ
...IT'S NOT FAIR.

I WANTED TO HURRY UP AND BECOME AN ADULT SO I WOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT AYRA.
I...HAD THOUGHT THAT LEX'S LOVE FOR AYRA WASN'T MUTUAL...
LOOK AT AYRA! SHE'S STRONG, KIND...
...PRETTY.
SHANAN.
BUT IT'S STILL FRUSTRATING!
AND I'M FINALLY GOOD AT USING A SWORD!
YOU WORKED VERY HARD LEARNING FROM LORD SIGURD.
HEY! DON'T SHOUT AT THE SUN SET!
THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT.
EVEN IF YOU AREN'T THE NUMBER ONE PERSON IN HER LIFE,
YOU CAN PROTECT HER BY DOING SOMETHING LIKE WISHING FOR HER HAPPINESS.


SILVAIL

REALLY? I'M SURE LORD SIGURD WILL BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT.
I GOT IT!!
HOW ABOUT I BECOME THE SWORD INSTRUCTOR FOR DIADORA'S BABY?
CROUCH

IS SIGURD COMING BACK TODAY?
I WANT TO TELL HIM ALL ABOUT HOW I WON THE TOURNA-MENT.

EHHHHHH!? NO WAYYYYY!!
HE WON'T BE RETURN-ING TONIGHT.
HE SAID HE HAD SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS WITH LORD ELTOSHAN.

HEARING THIS, HIS MAJESTY CHAGALL HAS BECOME VERY RESENTFUL TOWARDS GRANDBELL. HE IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE TREATING US AS A COLONY....
CORRECT...I HAVE RECEIVED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE PEOPLE REGARDING THE TYRANNY OF THE GRANDBELL OFFICIALS.
IT APPEARS HE IS SECRETLY AUGMENTING THE MILITARY WITHOUT ALERTING ME.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT DISCONTENT FOR GRANDBELL IS GROWING THROUGHOUT AGUSTRIA?
IF WE DON'T TAKE ACTION, THINGS WILL TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORST.

HEY, COME ON YOU TWO, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO JOKE ABOUT.
DO YOU WANT YOUR KID TO GROW UP WITHOUT KNOWING HIS FATHER'S FACE?
THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS TO FINISH THE PRACTICE DUELS WE HAD DURING THE DAYS AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY.
UNDER-STOOD... I'LL RAISE THIS ISSUE TO MY KING.
I'LL HAVE HIM SEE IF WE CAN BEGIN RETURNING AGUSTY BACK TO AGUSTRIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HOW ABOUT WE HAVE ONE RIGHT NOW?
I KNOW!
OH YEAH, DIDN'T WE HAVE 125 DUELS? AND ALL 125 OF THEM ENDED IN A STALEMATE.
I HAVEN'T EVEN GONE BACK TO SEE HIM ONCE. I HAVE FAILED AS A FATHER...
I GOT A LETTER FROM IRIA SAYING THAT HE CAN ALREADY WALK.
OH... SPEAKING OF LETTERS ...
HAHAHA
ARES HAS ALREADY PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME.
ELTO...

THIS IS FROM LACHESIS.
SHE THOUGHT YOU WOULD REFUSE TO SEE HER.
NOT SEEING HER AND ARBITRARILY TELLING HER TO RETURN TO NODION HAS TAKEN QUITE THE TOLL ON HER.
SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED EVER SINCE.
I ASKED HER TO COME WITH US, BUT IT SEEMS SHE WAS AFRAID OF WHAT YOUR REACTION WOULD BE.
JUST READ IT AND REPLY BACK.
"DEAREST LORD BROTHER..."

"I TRULY AM SORRY FOR NOT ABIDING BY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.
BUT I WILL EVENTUALLY GO BACK. IT'S JUST THAT THE WORDS THAT YOU SAID WEIGH HEAVILY ON MY CHEST."
"GOING HOME TO NODION WITHOUT YOU WOULD ONLY CAUSE ME NOTHING BUT PAIN."
"BECAUSE EVERY PART OF YOU CONTROLS EVERY PART OF ME.
...IT ALWAYS HAS...EVER SINCE THAT TIME..."
FLUTTER

...A WHITE ROSE ...
PETAL ...
"WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT, LACHESIS?"
Lachesis
13 years old
LORD BROTHER ELTO
STEP MOTHER DID? THAT'S NOT LIKE HER.
MOTHER HAS A PAIR OF BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND EARRINGS, AND I JUST WANTED TO TRY THEM ON FOR A LITTLE BIT...
MOTHER SCOLDED ME...

...I WON'T BE RECEIVING THAT FROM ANYONE IN MY LIFE.
IT'S NOT FAIR...
IT TELLS THE PERSON, "I SHALL ALWAYS LOVE YOU..."
I'M SURE IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT OBJECT FROM FATHER.
A DIAMOND IS A KIND OF STONE THAT SIGNIFIES A CONTRACT BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE.
WHY?
... LORD BROTHER?
PLUCK

THAT WHITE ROSE WILL ACT AS A PLACEHOLDER FOR THE DIAMOND
WHEN I AM ABLE TO, I'LL GIVE YOU A REAL DIAMOND
OH, LORD BROTHER .. STOP KIDDING AROUND
A DIAMOND IS A "CONTRACT". REMEMBER?
IF YOU ARE GOING TO REVOKE IT, NOW IS THE TIME
THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR THAT

"ALTHOUGH OUR FEELINGS CAN'T BE REALIZED...
EVEN NOW, OUR HEARTS STILL REMAIN THE SAME."

"SO PLEASE, DON'T BE SO COLD TO ME.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO STAY NEAR YOU, LIKE THE OLD DAYS."
KUU

I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER BE GIVING THIS TO HER.
MY MARRIAGE PARTNER HAS BEEN DECIDED!?

BUT YOU HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH LACHESIS
.....!
ALTHOUGH, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TWO WERE RAISED TOGETHER FROM BIRTH.
AND IT'S RATHER AMAZING HOW BEAUTIFUL LACHESIS HAS GROWN UP TO BE. . SO IT'S QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE.
I WON'T GO THROUGH WITH IT, FATHER!!
MARRYING A GIRL I HAVE NEVER MET...
I WASN'T PLANNING TO TELL YOU THIS UNTIL YOUR CORONATION.
...THEN I JUST WON'T MARRY ANYONE AT ALL!!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION? A CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO FAMILY MEMBERS IS FORBIDDEN.
IT IS THE MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES IF WE, THE CARRIERS OF THE HOLY BLOOD, VIOLATE THAT RULE.
DO YOU WANT TO BETRAY THE HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS OF KING MUKA AND THE PEOPLE!?
OR DO YOU PLAN TO THROW IT ALL AWAY FOR A ONE TIME PUPPY LOVE?
DON'T SPEAK SUCH NONSENSE.
IT IS YOUR DUTY AS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY TO MARRY.

AGAIN AND AGAIN I TRIED TO SUPPRESS MY FEELINGS...
BUT EVERY ATTEMPT ONLY CAUSED ME TO SUFFER.

THAT'S
THEN YOU SHALL TAKE THE PERSON I HAVE DECIDED ON AS YOUR WIFE!
GOT IT!? THIS IS AN ORDER!

TRYING MY BEST TO HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS...
AND ACT AS A NORMAL BROTHER WHENEVER I WAS AROUND HER.

AND "EVERYTHING" THAT I TREASURE WILL BE LOST...
IT WILL COMPLETELY TEAR YOU APART.
BUT NOW I AM AT MY LIMIT.
SO MUCH, THAT I REALIZE NOW THAT IF I GET CLOSE TO YOU...

THEN ABOUT THE MATTERS WE DISCUSSED HERE, I LEAVE THEM IN YOUR HANDS.
PLEASE TRY TO KEEP KING CHAGALL AT BAY, TOO
YEAH, NO PROBLEM.
PLEASE GIVE THIS TO LACHESIS.
THIS IS MY REPLY TO HER LETTER.
OH, AND SIGURD...
IS THAT SO?
HER BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP NEXT MONTH.

*TL NOTE - "CHU" IS A CHIRPING SOUND SOME BUGS MAKE IN JAPANESE. BUT ALSO IS USED AS A SOUND FOR KISSING
ARE THEY BUGS?"
I'M HOME! ♡
Chu
WELCOME BACK, LORD SIGURD.
I'M GLAD TO BE HOME, DIADORA. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
JUST FINE.
WELCOME BACK, CHAN!
LORD SIGURD.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY." HE SAYS.
DID LORD BROTHER
.....
WHAT!? A PRESENT!? LET'S SEE!
EXCITED
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL, LADY LACHESIS?
FEEL FREE TO OPEN IT
...AH...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
T'S..

I THINK I'LL OPEN IT IN MY ROOM.
UM..
ACTUALLY I
.....!
LET HER BE ALONE.
WAI...
FINN, DON'T
GO AHEAD
THANK YOU.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME ..
LADY LACHESIS

..I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.
LORD SIGURD, YOU KNOW HER TRUE FEELINGS ..
..COULD IT BE.
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU...?
IT'S AS IF YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH HIM.

COME NOW, FINN.
LOVE BETWEEN DIRECT FAMILY MEMBERS IS TABOO.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO FALL IN LOVE WITH MY BROTHER.
THE PAINFUL EXPRESSION ON HER FACE TOLD ME SHE WAS LYING.
IF YOU ARE AWARE, THEN PLEASE STOP HER!!
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A CHILD
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE TO DISCUSS THIS?
...BUT ...!

WHO?..
SOR-ROW?
TO WHO?
CONTINUING ON LIKE THIS WILL ONLY CAUSE HER SORROW!!
WHO IS TRULY CAPABLE OF PROTECTING ME.
THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THIS WORLD

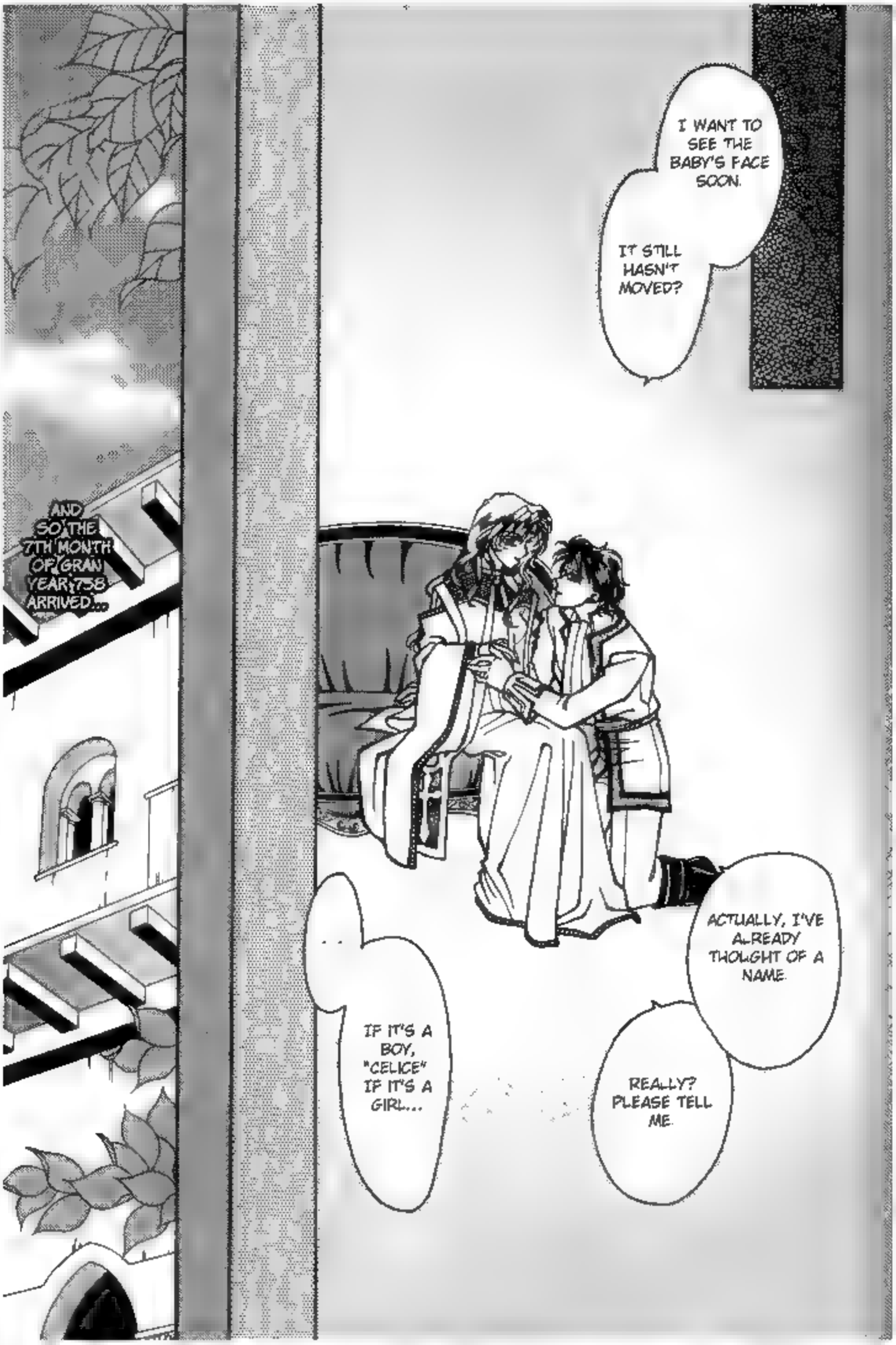
LORD BROTHER E.T.O.,

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO COME TO A DECISION REGARDING POSTWAR TREATMENT...
I KNOW ..AND IT'S BEEN ALMOST ONE MONTH
BUT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE E.TO IS WORKING HARD TRYING TO PREVENT KING CHAGALL FROM MAKING ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.
STILL NO WORD FROM HIS MAJESTY.
KNOCK KNOCK
IT PAINS ME.
BUT ALL I CAN DO IS POUR YOU THIS TEA...
...I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO.
ARE YOU AWARE OF THE AMOUNT OF TIMES JUST YOU BEING HERE HAS SAVED ME FROM GRIEF...?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, DIADORA?

...AN AMANUENSIS? IT'S NOT EXACTLY UNUSUAL...
THE SIGNATURE SAYS DUKE REPTOR. I'M AFRAID HE ACTED AS AN AMANUENSIS...
NO...IT DOES BEAR THE CREST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY BUT...
PARDON MY INTERRUPTION, LORD SIGURD
A LETTER FROM BARHARA HAS ARRIVED...
IS IT FROM THE KING!?
YES.. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME
YOU MAY LEAVE
..ANYWAY, THANKS OIFAYE
WHAT..? IS THIS..?
IT'S AS IF THIS LETTER WAS PRACTICALLY A GUARANTEE THAT WAR WILL OCCUR..
SNIP

IT LOOKS LIKE IT ISN'T GOOD NEWS...
AH, SORRY.
THESE WORDS CANNOT BE THOSE OF THE KING...
"WE COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR EFFORT AND HARD WORK IN YOUR CONTINUED DUTY IN THE OVERSEEING OF AGUSTY THAT HAS BEEN BESTOWED UPON YOU.
IN TIMES OF AN EMERGENCY, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE PEACE, YOU ARE TO DEMAND A CEASE AND DESIST OF ALL SIGNS OF MILITARY MOVEMENT."
THEREFORE, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS FIRST THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE!!
... HE CALLS HIMSELF AN AMANUENSIS!?
I ENDED UP YELLING.
UM...
LET'S TRY SENDING ANOTHER LETTER.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. IN THESE KINDS OF SITUATIONS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A STRONG RESOLVE.

WHEN I WAS LIVING IN THE DORMS OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY, HE TOLD ME TO WRITE HIM A LETTER ONCE A MONTH.
BUT NOT ONCE DID I EVER RECEIVE A REPLY BACK TO MY LETTERS.
OF COURSE NOT! DAD IS JUST NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO WRITES LETTERS.
PERHAPS HE ISN'T PLEASED WITH ME...
A REPLY FROM FATHER.... STILL HASN'T ARRIVED YET, HAS IT?
A REPLY TO THE LETTER TELLING YOUR FATHER ABOUT ME...
AH.
WANT FATHER TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THIS CHILD TOO...
I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU BACK TO CHALPHY.
BUT, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE HERE AT THE MOMENT...
LORD SIGURD, I...


I WANT TO SEE THE BABY'S FACE SOON.
IT STILL HASN'T MOVED?
AND SO THE 7TH MONTH OF GRAN YEAR 758 ARRIVED...
ACTUALLY, I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF A NAME.
REALLY? PLEASE TELL ME.
. . .
IF IT'S A BOY, "CELICE" IF IT'S A GIRL...

SHE'S GIVEN BIRTH! LORD BROTHER!
CONGRATULATIONS, SIGURD
THANK YOU. .
A HEALTHY LOOKING BOY!! SISTER IS ALSO DOING FINE.
GO! GO SEE DIADORA!
AGH
Hey now. Ethin.
GO ON IN!
MMM
She always embarrasses me
PAPA!!
LORD SIGURD.

おたん
GREET
CON-GRATU-LATIONS, LORD SIGURD
HURRY AND LET THE BABY HEAR YOUR VOICE.
R-RIGHT
GIGGLE
SINCE IT'S A BOY, "CELICE", REMEMBER?
ZZZ
U...UH.
UM.

UWAH! HE WOKE UP!!
SURPRISED
Dab
SNAP
CE..ICE
THANK YOU.
DA ?

TO ME YOU ARE THE KNIGHT FROM THAT STORY.
YOU FREED ME...
FROM THE DAYS WHERE I WAS BOUND BY A STRANGE FATE.
YOU SEE...
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, THERE WAS THIS STORY THAT I REALLY LIKED.
IT IS A TALE ABOUT A BRAVE KNIGHT WHO RESCUES A CAPTURED PRINCESS FROM AN EVIL SORCERER.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU...

THANK YOU, LORD SIGURD.
FOR THE HAPPINESS ...I ENJOY NOW.
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY FROM NOW ON.
BECAUSE THE PRINCESS IN THAT STORY
LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER, RIGHT?
PLEASE ALLOW THIS HAPPINESS
TO CONTINUE ON FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

AND
FOR ALL
ETERNITY...

COMMENT

TRANSLATION: TOMOYO
CLEANING: LIGHTSNAKE
TYPESETTING: TOMOYO
SCANNING: AQUANTIS
PROOFREADER: TRIMURTI
MINOR CORRECTIONS/QC: AQUANTIS, VINCENTASM

LOOKING FOR TYPESETTERS/CLEANERS! PLEASE VISIT THE FORUM AT:

HTTP://SERENESFOREST.NET/FORUMS/INDEX.PHP?SHOWTOPIC=15026

INFORMATION